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CPA FOR CIC MAREK BELKA

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: JORDANIAN PARTICIPATION IN MADRID IRAQI DONORS
CONFERENCE

REF: SECSTATE 235394

This is an action request. See Para 3.

1. (sbu) Summary. Confirming that Jordan is committed to providing technical and cooperative assistance to Iraqi ministries, Planning Minister Awadallah asked us for U.S. help in securing an invitation for Jordan to the October 23-24 donors' conference in Madrid. In addition, Jordan has four individuals under consideration as Jordanian representatives to the Council for International Coordination (CIC). Awadallah is coordinating Jordan's response to numerous requests from Iraqi ministries and institutions for assistance from Jordanian counterparts.

CIC Rep to be Named Soon

2. (sbu) Planning Minister Bassem Awadallah, who has taken responsibility for coordinating Jordanian technical assistance to Iraqi ministries, confirmed to Charge September 1 that the Prime Minister had four names under consideration as Jordanian representatives to the CIC. He said all four were "go-getters" from the private sector who would work hard to move forward initiatives with various Iraqi and Jordanian ministries (see below). They would also provide value-added to the CIC team in Baghdad. Awadallah said a staff member from the Jordanian Embassy in Baghdad would continue to represent Jordan at CIC meetings until Prime Minister Abul Ragheb has made a choice among the four.

Invitation to Madrid Conference

3. (sbu) Awadallah asked for U.S. assistance in obtaining an invitation to attend the October 24 Madrid Conference on donor assistance to Iraq. He said that it had only been last minute U.S. intervention with UNDP that secured Jordan's invitation to the preliminary conference in June. He thought this help would be required again.

Iraqi Requests for Jordanian Assistance

4. (sbu) At Madrid, Awadallah thought Jordan would be in a position to describe ongoing and planned assistance to Iraqi institutions in several areas in which formal or informal assistance requests had been provided. These include requests for training for central bank and bank employees at Jordanian training centers and ministry-to-ministry technical assistance to the Ministries of Health, Trade, Transportation, Labor, Agriculture, and Justice. Contacts between Jordanian and Iraqi ministries are being facilitated by the Embassy (including the Military Assistance Program's Humanitarian Assistance Coordinating Center). CPA and Iraqi officials visiting or passing through Jordan are also pursuing cooperative activities with Jordanian officials. Post will email to CPA (Marek Belka and Ali Tulba) and to NEA/ARN a tracking sheet and description of the various initiatives.
HALE